

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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UNCLAS CARACAS 7150

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR SHUM VE
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER REVIEWS GOV FOREIGN POLICY

1. FONMIN SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI SPOKE ON US-VENEZUELAN RELATIONS IN A SPEECH AT THE VENEZUELAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES (IESA) ON JULY 31, 1978. HE POINTED OUT THAT VENEZUELA WAS NOT SEEKING A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US, RATHER "JUST TREATMENT, NOT AS A REWARD FOR FRIENDSHIP, BUT A RIGHT ACQUIRED IN OUR HISTORIC RELATIONS." HE NOTED FURTHER THAT VENEZUELA HAD MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE US BY SUPPLYING CHEAP, RAW MATERIALS.

2. ON OTHER ASPECTS OF GOV FOREIGN POLICY, CONSALVI REITERATED SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS AND ARGUED THAT ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WAS VENEZUELA'S ONLY OPTION FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND WAS ALSO VITAL FOR "CONFRONTING THE NATIONS OF THE NORTH." HE EXPRESSED VENEZUELA'S CONCERN OVER THE ARMS RACE, PARTICULARLY IN THE THIRD WORLD, SAYING IT WAS THE GRAVEST THREAT FACING THE WORLD AND ARGUED THAT CONFLICTS SHOULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT VENEZUELA WAS NOT ONLY SEEKING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH ITS LA NEIGHBORS, BUT THE STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN THE CONTINENT. WHILE EXPRESSING STRONG CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CONSALVI SAID THE GOV DOESN'T VIEW HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY AS A "POLITICAL MISSILE" TO BE USED SELECTIVELY, THUS DISTURBING

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OTHER ESSENTIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS WHICH CONCERN HUMANITY, LIKE THE CURRENT US-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS.
CROWLEY

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